

Replace the paragraph at page 7, lines 26-31 with the following paragraph::

A2 Referring to Figure 3, each transducer assembly 18 includes a load beam 24 that secures one of the head suspensions 26 to one of the actuator arms 36 (not shown in Figure 3). Each load beam 24 is flexible in a direction perpendicular to the storage disk 12 and acts as a spring for supporting the slider 22 and the data transducer 20. Each load beam 24 is resilient and biased to urge each slider 22 towards the storage surface 34.

Replace the paragraph at page 8, lines 18-27 with the following paragraph::

A3 The design of each slider 22 can be varied to suit the design requirements of the disk drive 10. As provided above, preferably each slider 22 is a padded slider that includes the air bearing surface 27 and at least one pad 28 which is positioned closer to the storage disk 12 than the air bearing surface 27 when the slider 22 is positioned near the storage disk 12. The pads 28 minimize the contact area between the slider 22 and the disk 12. The pads 28 are tall enough to prevent long-range adhesion forces and liquid meniscus forces which greatly increase the contact load between the slider 22 and the disk 12. Stated another way, the pads 28 reduce stiction between the slider 22 and the storage disk 12 when the slider 22 contacts the storage disk 12.

Replace the paragraph at page 8, line 28-33 with the following paragraph::

Stated another way, the pads 28 maintain the air bearing surface 27 and the rest of the slider 22 spaced apart from the storage disk 12 when the slider 22 contacts the storage disk 12. A more complete discussion of suitable sliders 22 can be found in U.S. Patent No. 5,768,055, issued to Tian et al.; U.S. Patent No. 5,841,608, issued to Kasamatsu et al.; and U.S. Patent No. 5,388,017 issued to Franco et al., the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Replace the paragraph at page 9, lines 1-11 with the following paragraph::

A4 The head suspension 26 connects the slider 22, including the data transducer 20, to the load beam 24. The design of the head suspension 26 can be varied to suit the design requirements of the head stack assembly 14. In the embodiment illustrated in the Figures, the head suspension 26 includes a proximal end 60, a distal end 62, a suspension gimbal 64 and a

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plurality of electrical traces (not shown). Figure 3 is a top plan view of a load beam 24 and a head suspension 26. Alternately, Figures 4 and 5 are simplified illustrations of the head suspension 26 and the slider 22. The proximal end 60 is secured to the load beam 24. The distal end 62 cantilevers away from the load beam 24. The gimbal 64 is positioned between the distal end 62 and the proximal end 60. The gimbal 64 allows the slider 22 and the data transducer 20 to pivot relative to the storage disk 12.

Replace the paragraph at page 9, lines 12-25 with the following paragraph::

Importantly, referring to Figure 5, the head suspension 26 maintains the slider 22 at a pitch static attitude 29 of between approximately zero degrees and negative two degrees. If the pitch static angle 29 is negative, a moment 66 (illustrated in Figure 4) acts on the head suspension 26 when the slider 22 rests on the storage disk 12. The moment 66 inhibits the slider 22 from rotating and tipping in the event the disk 12 rotates backwards. Stated another way, when the head stack assembly 14 is loaded onto the storage disk 12, the head suspension 26 is deformed. If the pitch static attitude 29 is negative, as illustrated in Figure 5, the moment 66 acts to rotate the slider 22 counterclockwise to increase the stability of the slider 22. By maintaining the pitch static attitude 29 at between approximately negative two and zero degrees, the likelihood of contact between the non-padded portion of the slider 22 and the disk 12 during the start up and shut down phases is minimized. Thus, the present invention minimizes the likelihood of drive stiction failure. This extends the life of the disk drive 10 and allows for the use of polished media in disk drives.

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Replace the paragraph at page 9, lines 28-31 with the following paragraph::

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Figure 6 is a graph that outlines the relationship between the stiction and pitch static attitude 29. Figure 6 illustrates that a negative pitch static attitude 29 stabilizes a typically unstable slider 22. Figure 6 also illustrates that stability increases as the pitch static attitude 29 decreases.

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